

~~RG 79~~ Records of the National Park Service

Records of Field Organizations

Records of Regional Offices

Records of Region II

In 1937 four regional offices were set up in Richmond, Virginia; Omaha, Nebraska; Santa Fe, New Mexico; and San Francisco, California. Region II was established with headquarters in Omaha, to administer National Park Service activities within the following 15 states: Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. Colorado and Utah were divided between Region III, headquartered in Santa Fe and Region II.

The regional office consisted of a Regional Director, who served as the principle field representative of the Director of the Park Service; an assistant director; division directors for administration, operations, interpretation and cooperative activities; and administrative and professional staff. The Regional Director was responsible for the execution and coordination of Park Service programs within the region, including interpretation and application of national policy through establishment of regional policies and procedures.

The Regional Director exercised line authority and supervision over park superintendents and officers in charge of national monuments, historic sites, and recreational areas within the region. These included Glacier, Grand Teton, Isle Royal, Rocky Mountain, Wind Cave and Yellowstone National Parks; Badlands, Big Hole Battlefield, Black Canyon of the Gunnison, Colorado, Chicago Portage, Custer Battlefield, Devils Tower, Dinosaur, Effigy Mounds, Fort Laramie, Fossil Cycad, George Washington Carver Birthplace, Great Sand Dunes, Holy Cross, Homestead, Jewell Cave, Jackson Hole, Pipestone, Scotts Bluff, Shoshone Cavern and Verendrye National Monuments; Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park; Mount Rushmore National Memorial; Jefferson National Expansion Memorial Historic Site; and Shadow Mountain Recreation Area.

The regional offices of the Park Service were reorganized in 1955 with the establishment of Region V, headquartered in Philadelphia. In the ensuing reconfiguration of the regional areas, Region V received the states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin which were previously assigned to Region II. Those portions of Colorado and Utah administered by Region III were transferred to Region II.

In 1962 the National Capitol Parks were made the sixth Park Service

region and the numerical designations were dropped in favor of names reflecting the geographical areas served. Under this practice Region II was renamed the Midwest Region. A seventh region was added in 1970 and designated the Pacific North West Region, with headquarters in Seattle, Washington. Neither of these changes resulted in the realignment of the Midwest Region.

The most significant regional reorganization occurred in 1974 with the creation of the North Atlantic and Rocky Mountain Regions, bringing the total number of regional offices to nine. The Midwest Region gained the states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin from the former Northeast Region and lost to the Rocky Mountain Region, located in Denver, the states of Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming.

The records described herein originated prior to or during the period the Omaha office was designated as Region II (1937-62). They include some records of Park Service field activities from years prior to the establishment of the Regional Office; this documentation is associated with Emergency Conservation Work (ECW) programs beginning in 1933 and Emergency Relief Administration (ERA) recreational demonstration projects commencing in 1934, and successor Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), Works Progress Administration (WPA) and Resettlement Administration activities. Between 1933 and 1937 these activities were chiefly coordinated by a succession of non-Park Service field offices, including ECW and CCC state and district representatives, military liaison officers, associate regional officers, and regional directors.

(1) Regulations, Instructions, and Other Procedural Issuances Relating to ECW and CCC Activities. October 20, 1933 - January 28, 1943. 9 feet.

These records, issued by the War Department and National Park Service offices exercising jurisdiction over ECW and CCC activities, are arranged organizationally by agency and thereunder by type of issuance or subject. Documents filed under the issuance and subject headings are arranged chronologically by enrollment period and fastened together in "books."

This series consists chiefly of processed regulations, instructions, directives, circulars, memoranda, bulletins, letters and other procedural issuances with accompanying correspondence received from War Department and National Park Service offices. War Department issuances include directives and instructions issued by the Adjutant General; excess property lists distributed by the Quartermaster General; finance bulletins and circulars issued by the Office of the Chief of Finance; and Army Corps and District instructions, circulars, education reports, station lists, camp status reports, and organizational charts relating to the supervision of ECW and CCC enrollment programs and camp

582

management. Park Service issuances generally concern the technical supervision of CCC work in National, State and local parks. They include lists of projects, program officers, and camp authorities; camp directories; camp status records and station lists; and related correspondence. Additional ECW and CCC records are included among the National Parks and Monuments Central Classified Files and Records Pertaining to Recreation, Land Use and State Cooperation.

(2) Records Pertaining to Recreation, Land Use and State Cooperation.
March 19, 1932 - May 5, 1953. 111 feet.

There are general records, records filed alphabetically by geographical area and records filed alphabetically by state arranged according to the National Park Service decimal classification system. Within the classification headings the records are often subdivided by subject, project, enrollment period or other appropriate subheading. Documents filed under these headings and subheadings are arranged chronologically and fastened together in "books."

Correspondence; memoranda; instructions; narrative and statistical reports; recreation surveys; submarginal land evaluations; land appraisal; leases; cooperative agreements; proposals for parks, monuments, historic sites, and recreation areas; master plans; camp applications; project and camp status records; work and camp project files; budgets; audit reports; accident and fire reports; historical, archeological, geological and wildlife investigations and surveys; meteorological data; minutes; press releases; maps; photographs; press clippings; engineering drawings; publications; and other records. They relate to the technical supervision of ECW, CCC, WPA, and RA activities thru 1943 and cooperation with state and local governments in planning, designing and constructing parks and recreational areas. The records include those of the regional office, 1937-53, and those of predecessor field activities of the Park Service, including the Chicago and Omaha procurement offices, ECW and CCC district and state representatives, military liaison officers, and associate regional officers, 1933-37. Some Park Service, Soil Conservation Service and Resettlement Administration records and records of advisory commissions having Park Service regional representation have been incorporated into this series. Although there are documents dated as early as March 19, 1932, and as late as May 5, 1953, the majority of the records are for the periods 1934-43 and 1947-52.

There are records for the following geographical areas and states in the order listed: Colorado River Drainage Basin, Great Plains, Mississippi River Parkway, Northern Lake States, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin and Wyoming. Informational copies of reports and investigations of some out of region activities in Arkansas and Nevada are also included with this series.

(3) Regional Administration Files. October 16, 1937 - June 27, 1952.
8 inches.

Arranged according to the National Park Service decimal classification system; within decimal headings the documents are arranged chronologically by date of document and fastened together in "books."

Correspondence, memoranda, and narrative and statistical reports of the Regional Director and subordinate administrative officers. There is correspondence between the regional office and the Park Service Director, park superintendents and field personnel; annual regional narrative reports thru 1949; annual reports of CCC activities thru 1943; reports of the disposition of ECW and CCC records; motor vehicle and gasoline usage reports for the War years; field auditors' reports and correspondence; reports and correspondence concerning in-service training; and three special reports on the proposed relocation of the regional headquarters to Denver, St. Paul, or St. Louis.

Additional administrative records are among the National Parks and Monuments Central Classified Files under the 200 decimal codes. Additional ECW and CCC records are included with the Records Pertaining to Recreation, Land Use and State Cooperation.

(4) National Parks and Monuments Central Classified Files. November 7, 1931 - November 19, 1952. 92 feet.

There are general records and records filed alphabetically by specific national park, monument, memorial, memorial park, historic site and recreational area; arranged according to National Park Service decimal classification system. Within each decimal classification the records are often further subdivided by more specific subject or other appropriate headings. Documents filed under these headings and subheadings are generally arranged chronologically and fastened together in "books" with occasional loose items inserted.

Letters received; copies of letters sent; correspondence; instructions; directives; narrative and statistical reports; memoranda; minutes of conferences and meetings; manuals; copies of Congressional Bills and Acts of Congress; copies of state legislative enactments; Presidential Proclamations; historical, geographical, archeological and wildlife surveys and reports; circulars; contracts; permits; press releases and speeches; accident and fire reports; land acquisition files; construction files; maps; photographs; engineering drawings; publications; press clippings; and other records. They relate to the administration of national parks and monuments within the Region II area and cooperation with and assistance to states, local governments, and citizen groups in developing parks and recreational areas and the preservation and interpretation of historic sites. Most of the

correspondence is with the Director and subordinate officials of the Park Service, other government agencies, park superintendents and field office personnel, state and local government officials, professional organizations and associations, citizen groups, land owners, concessionaires, and the general public.

Areas for which there are records include Glacier, Grand Teton, Rocky Mountain, Wind Cave, and Yellowstone National Parks; Badlands, Black Canyon of the Gunnison, Colorado, Custer Battlefield, Devils Tower, Dinosaur, Effigy Mound, Fort Laramie, George Washington Carver Birthplace, Great Sand Dunes, Holy Cross, Homestead, Jewell Cave, Pipestone, Scotts Bluff, Shoshone Cavern and Verendrye National Monuments; Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park; Mount Rushmore National Memorial; Jefferson Expansion Memorial Historic Site; and Shadow Mountain Recreation Area.

Records of the Grand Portage National Monument, Cook County, Minnesota, jointly administered by the Park Service and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, are among the records of the Consolidated Chippewa Indian Agency, RG 75, in the custody of the Kansas City Regional Archives.

Records of Areas Administered by the National Park Service.

National Memorial Parks

Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park

The Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park was established by Congress in 1947 on a 110 square mile site along the Little Missouri River, in the Badlands area of North Dakota, to commemorate Roosevelt's part in developing the open range cattle industry of the Northern Plains and his contribution to the conservation of the nation's natural resources. The land was originally acquired by Russell Reid, Curator of the North Dakota State Historical Society, as a state site between 1934 and 1937; it consists of portions of the Maltese Cross and Elkhorn Ranches operated by Roosevelt from 1883 until 1898. The Memorial, administered by the Park Service, is headquartered at Medora, North Dakota.

(5) Superintendents Classified Files. January 27, 1947 - December 28, 1953. 15 inches.

Arranged according to the National Park Service decimal classification system; within the decimal headings the documents are arranged chronologically and fastened together in "books."

Corrspondence, memoranda. orders, instructions, minutes, handbooks, reports, permits, maps, registers, photographs, publications and other records relating to the administration, operation, maintenance and historical interpretation of the Medora, Watford City and Elkhorn Ranch sites which form the Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park. The records generally date from the establishment of the park in 1947 thru 1953; however there are water analysis and distribution data collected by the University of North Dakota and the State Department of Public Health dated as early as May 14, 1936. Additional records pertaining to the park and surrounding area are among the National Parks and Monuments Central Classified Files and Records Pertaining to Recreation, Land Use and State Cooperation.